

Subject: Chinese and Japanese coinage

Lowenstam, Benjamin G.
[Roxbury, MA]

1933

Benj. G. Lowenstam,
433 Warren Street.
Roxbury, Mass.

February 2, 1933.

Mr. Howland Wood,
c/o American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Since your visit to our local Club and after listening to your description of your collection of Japanese coins, I have searched through my stuff to find what I had of these coins. So, besides finding some of the more familiar silver and gold itzi-bus, of various sizes, kobans, spade and knife money, etc. I came across the following two pieces which I am enclosing and which I am unable to place. I would appreciate if you could enlighten me on these pieces.

I am also enclosing a rubbing of a large piece of chinese origin that I would like to know something about. My chinese laundryman told me it was "old money", "velly old money" and was as glad to see it as a large bundle of shirts. This piece is seemingly of bronze, though it looks like iron, non magnetic, has considerable green patina, and all the characters are well formed. The edge is about 5/16 in. thick.

If any of the smaller pieces would serve to fill a gap in your collection you may keep it at your own price, but the larger piece is one of my show pieces, therefore will not part with it.

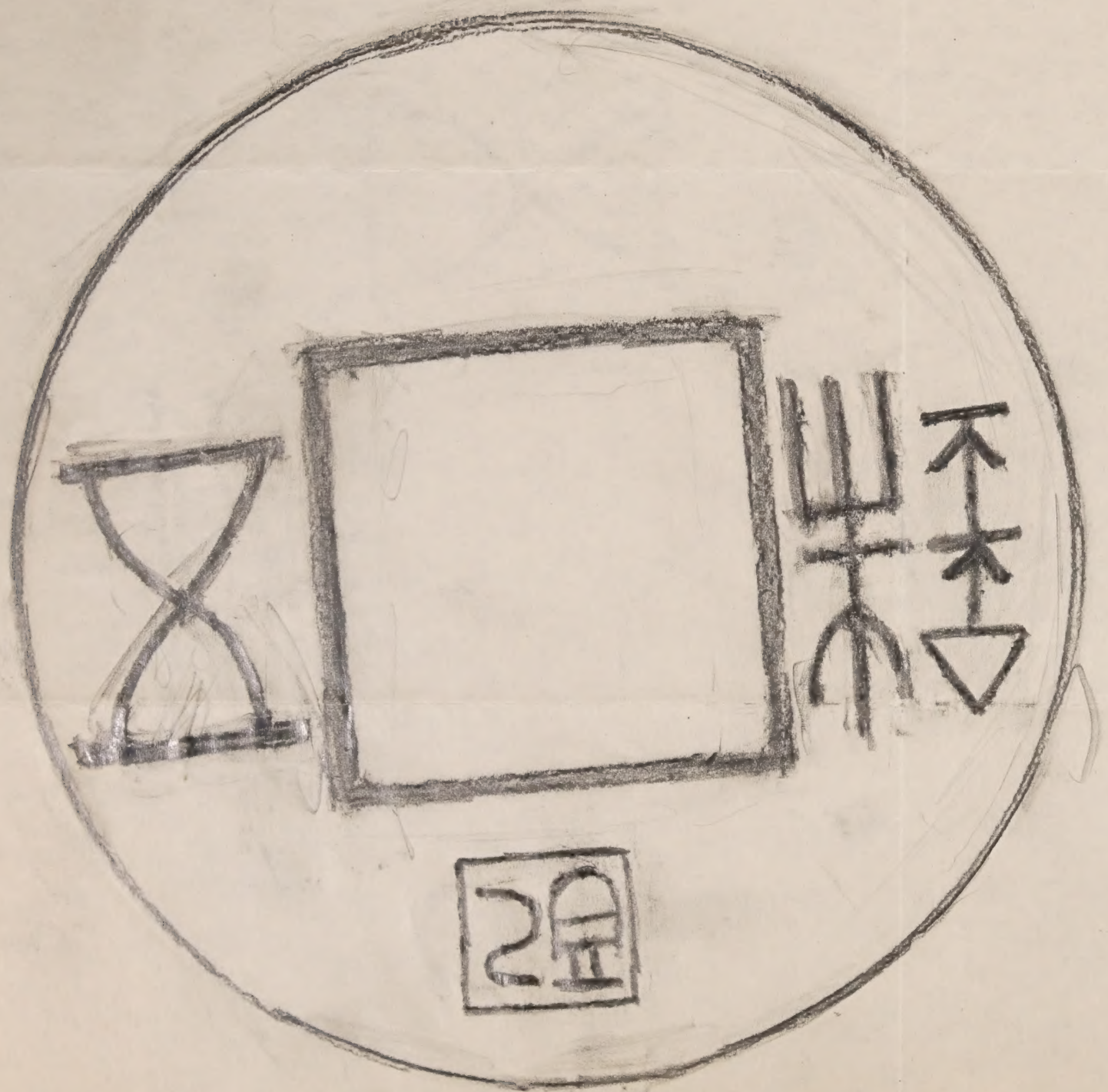
My interest in oriental numismatics, I will admit, extends only to the odd looking pieces, and that probably is the beginning of everyones interest in the subject, or any subject - until one becomes more familiar with it.

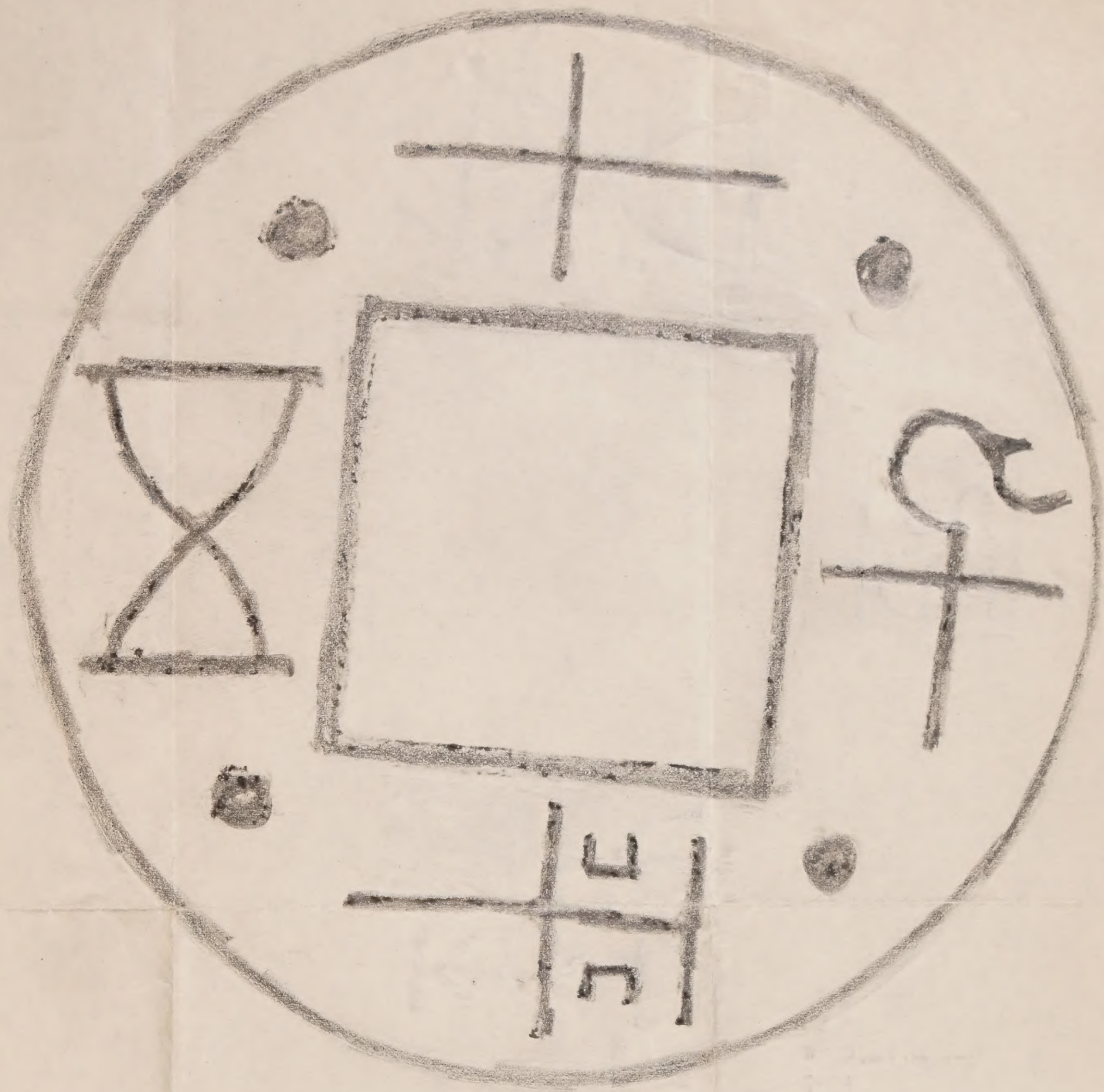
Very truly yours,

Benj. G. Lowenstam

P. S. Will you kindly return the rubbing with your explanations marked thereon, approximate date, etc.

B. G. L.





February 3, 1933.

Mr. Benjamin G. Lowenstam
433 Warren Street
Roxbury, Mass.

Dear Sir:

The two coins you sent on I have, and am returning them to you attributed. One you will note is Chinese and the other Japanese. The large piece is quite a spectacular ornament. It is not money and it is not old. It is an imitation of a burial piece. Most of them emanate from Canton and a number were on sale in Chinatown a few years ago. I have seen only one genuine one of these which was dug up in a tomb in Ho-Nan. The inscription reads fifty thousand and the other side reads five tchu. Many thanks for sending these on.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG